

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR SWITCHING VARIABLELY SIZED INFORMATION GROUPS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5 A system and method are provided for locking a link to
transfer variable length information packets across a packet/cell switch.
The invention uses a least recently used arbitration process to select a
switch input for each switch output. In the event that multiple switch
outputs nominate a common switch input, a least recently used
10 arbitration process selects between nominating switch outputs. Then, the
arbitration process is repeated for switch outputs that remain unlinked.
Once a switch output and switch input have been linked, the information
packet is completely transferred across the switch before those outputs
and inputs again become eligible for arbitration.